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THE CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE MIDDLE WEST AND SOUTH

Southern Branch

From the High School Journal (a periodical published by the School of Education of the University of North Carolina), 3.248 (December, 1920), we learn that the Southern Branch of The Classical Association of the Middle West and South will hold its first meeting, at Columbia, South Carolina, at the University of South Carolina, on February 24-26. When the High School Journal went to press, the programme of the meeting had not been completed. It was known, however, that one feature of the programme was to be a lecture, illustrated with moving pictures, by Professor C. U. Clark. It was hoped also that Mr. Fairfax Harrison, President of the Southern Railway, well known for his book, *Roman Farm Management, The Treatises of Cato and Varro Done into English* (New York, Macmillan, 1913), and for his article *The Crooked Plow*, in *The Classical Journal* 11.323-332, a discussion of the Roman plow and of Roman ways of plowing, would attend the meeting, and perhaps deliver an address.

The organization committee of the Southern Branch of The Classical Association of the Middle West and South consists of Professor J. B. Game, of the Florida State College for Women, Professor R. B. Steele, of Vanderbilt University (President of The Classical Association of the Middle West and South), Professor W. D. Hooper, of the University of Georgia, Professor Herbert Lipscomb, of Randolph-Macon Woman's College, and Professor George Howe, of the University of North Carolina.

C. K.

ONCE MORE AENEID VI IN THE 'MOVIES'

In *THE CLASSICAL WEEKLY* 14.79-80 I gave an account of a moving picture of Aeneid VI, produced by the joint action of the Southern Bell Telephone Company, the Harcol Educational Movie Company, and the Latin teachers and Latin pupils of the Girls High School, Atlanta, Ga.

Readers of *THE CLASSICAL WEEKLY* will, I am sure, be interested in a rather curious sequel of the events set forth in the account referred to above. Without knowing at all what I was going to say about the production, the Southern Bell Telephone Company notified me, in a letter dated December 20, that it had shipped to me the picture, in order that I might view it, and express an opinion of its merits. This was just before the Christmas vacation began. The rush of express matter at Christmas time delayed the coming of the picture, and I was, of course, not in position, immediately on its arrival in the last days of the year, to have the picture 'run'. Knowing nothing of vacation arrangements in the Schools, or forgetting them, the Telephone Company, on Tuesday, January 4, telegraphed me, asking

for my verdict on the picture, and asking me to forward the picture, at once, to a certain person. An exchange of telegrams followed, as the result of which I had the picture 'run' on Wednesday afternoon, January 5, the first day on which I had University duties in the current year. It was impossible to get word about among teachers and pupils of the High Schools or Private Schools of this vicinity. Several of my colleagues were present, and perhaps twenty or twenty five students of Barnard College.

The letter which was the first notice to me that the Telephone Company had *sua sponte, immo vero ultro*, sent the picture to me contained some interesting statements: (1) that a group of men of Atlanta interested in educational matters had underwritten the performance; that their purpose was in part to induce greater attendance in High Schools and Colleges, in part "to create a property which would produce revenue sufficient to be of material aid to this School to better put on their plays. . . ." They hoped that there might be "a rental demand for the picture on the part of Grade Schools, 'Prep.' Schools, and possibly some Colleges".

My review consisted of two parts, general comments, such as might be generally quoted, and detailed criticisms (adverse) of certain points. I venture to believe that part of what I wrote is worth quoting here.

"I was much pleased with the picture. . . . In view of all the circumstances <under which it was produced>, the result is extraordinarily good. The picture makes one thing very plain—the fact that there is in the Sixth Book of the Aeneid, and undoubtedly in many other parts of the extant Greek and Latin literature, material for pictures of great—the highest—interest and effectiveness, not only to those actually engaged in the study and the teaching of the Classics, but to many others. The extent to which these possibilities are realized in the picture of Vergil, Aeneid VI, produced by the Harcol Company, is, in view of the circumstances, astounding. All who participated in the production are to be heartily congratulated and warmly thanked. I hope the picture will be widely exhibited. The exhibition will, beyond question, be of great service in stimulating interest in the Classics themselves. . . .

The picture opens wide possibilities, as I have already said. With the aid of professional actors, who would really study the text, in translations, the best translations, taking the requisite time for the production, and using all available accessories of properties, make-up, etc., the Harcol Company could produce most effective and beautiful pictures of Aeneid VI (and other classical works), especially if an expert classical scholar of high rank should be called into consultation. In the production of Aeneid Six, for instance, the figures of the Sibyl, of Anchises, and of the Heroes could be made most impressive.

In these ways, much could be done for literature and art on their higher levels, and a most effective form of propaganda for the Classics could be developed".

Perhaps the "Visual Instruction Bureaus" of various State Departments of Education could be induced to take up such work.

C. K.